AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing double-crosslinked hyaluronate material, comprising the steps of:

(a) subjecting hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to a first crosslinking reaction using either an epoxide compound or a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent, and

(b) subjecting the product obtained from step (a) to a second crosslinking reaction using either an~~the~~ epoxide compound as a crosslinking agent if a~~or~~ carbodiimide compound was~~not~~ used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), or using a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent if an epoxide compound was used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), ~~(b) as a crosslinking agent,~~ thereby obtaining a double crosslinked hyaluronate material.

2. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxide compound is a polyfunctional epoxide compound.

3. (original): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the epoxide compound is 1,4-butanediol diglycidyl ether (BDDE), ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (EGDGE), 1,6-hexanediol diglycigyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polytetramethylene glycol digylcidyl ether, neopentyl glycol digylcidyl ether, polyglycerol

polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol polyglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, trimethylolpropane polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, or a combination thereof.

4. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stoichiometry ratio of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to the epoxide compound in the crosslinking reaction is about 1:50 to l:1 by crosslinking equivalent.

5. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxide compound is in a solution with a concentration of about 1 to 30% by weight.

6. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature for crosslinking reaction using the epoxide compound as the crosslinking agent is between about 20 and 60°C.

7. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the time for crosslinking reaction with the epoxide compound as the crosslinking agent is between 10 minutes and 12 hours.

8. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbodiimide compound is 1-methyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)

carbodiimide, 3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide, or a combination thereof.

9. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stoichiometry ratio of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to the carbodiimide compound in the crosslinking reaction is about 1:50 to 1:1 by crosslinking equivalent.

10. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbodiimide compound is in a solution with a concentration of about 0.5 to 30% by weight.

11. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature for crosslinking reaction using the carbodiimide compound as the crosslinking agent is between about 20 and 60°C.

12. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the time for crosslinking reaction using the carbodiimide compound as the crosslinking agent is between 30 minutes and 12 hours.

13. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof is contained in a material.

14. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in step (a), the hyaluronic

acid or a salt thereof is preformed into a solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel before undergoing the first crosslinking reaction.

15. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the film is formed by placing a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof with a concentration of about 1 to 20% by weight in a mold and drying at a temperature between 25 and 70°C.

16. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the film has a thickness of about 10 to 500 μm.

17. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microsphere is formed by intermittently extruding and dropping a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof into a coagulant.

18. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microsphere has a diameter of about 2.0 to 0.1 mm.

19. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fiber is formed by extruding a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof into a coagulant.

20. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in step (b), the product

obtained from step (a) is preformed into a solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel before undergoing the second crosslinking reaction.

21. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the film is formed by placing the product obtained from step (a) in a mold and drying at a temperature between 25 and 70°C.

22. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the film has a thickness of about 10 to 500 μm.

23. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the microsphere is formed by intermittently extruding and dropping the product obtained from step (a) into a coagulant.

24. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the microsphere has a diameter of about 2.0 to 0.1 mm.

25. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fiber is formed by extruding the product obtained from step (a) into a coagulant.

26. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, after step (b), further comprising the following step:

(c) washing and drying the double-crosslinked hyaluronate material obtained in step (b).

27. (original): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein step (c) includes washing and drying at a temperature less than 60°C.

28. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the double-cross linked hyaluronate material is in the form of solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel.

29. (original): A double-crosslinked hyaluronate material produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.